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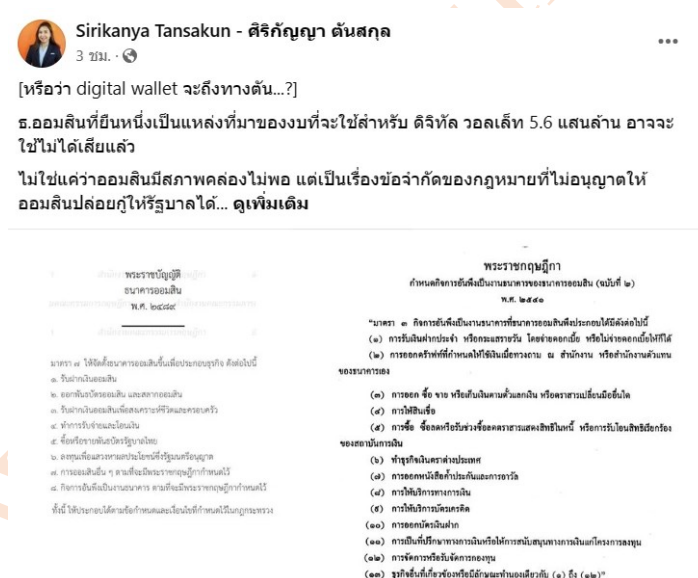
• October 24, 2023

Thai Enquirer News Summary

Economic News

- The government of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has come out to say that it would look to lower the price of gasoline 91 Octane by as much as 2.50 Baht per liter by the end of this month.
 - ❖ The plan is to lower the price of 91 Octane gasoline (Petrol) as this is the gasoline that is mostly used by the lower income bracket users such as motorcycle drivers.
 - ❖ Srettha government is also set to lower the price of other Octane levels such as 95 etc. but that is set to be decided upon later next month or by the end of the year.
 - ❖ This move follows the move to lower the prices of diesel to below 30 Baht per liter that was undertaken late last month.

- The steering committee for the 10,000-Baht handout policy will convene today, according to Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat. After summarizing the matter, they will present the results to another sub-committee on October 25-26.
 - ❖ Meanwhile Move Forward Party MP Sirikanya Tansakun stated that the Government Savings Bank, which serves as the primary source for the 560 billion Baht digital wallet initiative, may no longer be available for use.
 - ❖ This is not solely due to insufficient liquidity, but also because of legal constraints that prohibit the Government Savings Bank from lending to the government, as stated in Article 7 of the Government Savings Bank Act.
 - ❖ Sirikanya mentioned that there is no provision that allows the government to borrow money from the bank. If the law is not amended, the only option remaining would be to issue government bonds, similar to what was done during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, given the lack of immediate necessity for the initiative, such a move might be a "political suicide," Sirikanya stated.



- The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is closely monitoring the Israel-Hamas conflict for fear that if the war expands to include other neighbouring Arab nations, Thai vehicle exports could be affected late this year.
 - ❖ Vehicles are the leading Thai exports to Israel in terms of value, at US\$ 243 million per year. In the first eight months of this year (Jan-Aug), Thailand exported \$ 124 million worth of vehicles and auto parts to Israel, representing 1% of total Thai auto exports.

- ❖ The Middle East is Thailand's third-largest vehicle market, accounting for 16% of total exports, behind Australia (28%) and Asia (31%) in 2022.
- ❖ High demand in the Mideast helped to drive a 19.5% y-on-y increase in Thai vehicle exports over the first eight months this year. Saudi Arabia is the region's leading market for Thai auto exports.
- Majority state owned oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc (PTT) is set to undergo a significant restructuring of its board of directors between November and December 2023. Additionally, the company's top-level management structure will see some changes in the first quarter of 2024.
 - ❖ Notably, Thosaporn Sirisamphand, Chairman of the PTT Board, had already resigned from his position, effective from November 15, 2023, as per the board meeting held on October 19. Prasert Sinsukprasert, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and a current member of the PTT Board, will assume the role of the new chairman.
 - ❖ Meanwhile, Auttapol Rerkpiboon, President and CEO of PTT, will complete his 4-year term in May 2024. The search for his replacement must commence at least 6 months prior to the end of his term.
 - ❖ Recently, the board appointed Payong Srivanich as the Chairman of the Nomination Committee. There are currently two candidates to take up Auttapol's place including Kongkrapan Intarajang, CEO of PTT Global Chemical Plc, and Noppadol Pinsupa, CEO of PTT Exploration and Production Plc.
- Aesthetic Connect Plc (TRP) will commence trading on the Market for Alternative Investment (mai) today. The company operates in the healthcare sector, specifically in the field of aesthetic medicine through "Teeraporn Clinic," providing cosmetic surgery services to the general public.
 - ❖ Additionally, TRP is in the process of constructing a hospital for cosmetic surgery on Somdet Phra Chao Taksin Road in Bangkok's Thonburi district, with a total area of 9,918 square meters. The investment is estimated to be around 922 million Baht, and the company anticipates opening for service by the end of next year.
 - ❖ Brokers assessed TRP's target price at 21-26 Baht per share, based on an IPO price of 14 Baht per share.
- Recent performance reports from the commercial banking sector reveal that several banks are able to sustain growth during the third quarter of 2023, particularly among the following 10 institutions: KBANK, BBL, KTB, BAY, SCB, TTB, TISCO, LHFG, KKP, and CIMBT.

- ❖ Their combined profit for the quarter reached 59.47 billion Baht, representing a slight decrease of 3.51% compared to the previous quarter's total profit of 61.66 billion Baht. However, when compared to the same period last year, there was a notable increase in profit of over 10.5%.
- ❖ Kasikornbank (KBANK) and Bangkok Bank (BBL) emerged as standout performers, both in comparison to the previous quarter and the same period last year. KBANK reported a net profit of 11 billion Baht for the third quarter, reflecting a growth of 21% compared to the same period last year. Similarly, BBL reported a net profit of 11 billion Baht, demonstrating a remarkable growth of 48% compared to the same period last year.
- ❖ Regarding reserves for bad debts, they increased to 58.44 billion Baht for this quarter, indicating an increase of 3.26% compared to the previous quarter and a significant increase of 21.79% compared to the same period last year.

ผลการดำเนินงานกลุ่มธนาคารงวดไตรมาส 3/2566								
และงวด 9 เดือนแรกของปี 2566								
ธนาคาร	ไตรมาส 3/66 (บ.ก.)	ไตรมาส 3/65 (บ.ก.)	เปลี่ยนแปลง (%)	9 เดือนแรก ของปี 66 (บ.ก.)	9 เดือนแรก ของปี 65 (บ.ก.)	เปลี่ยนแปลง (%)	CAP (%)	Coverage Ratio** (%)
BBL	11,350	7,657	48.00	32,773	21,736	51.00	19.1	283.3
KBANK	11,282	10,574	7.00	33,017	32,579	1.30	19.62	154.9
KTB	10,282	8,450	22.00	30,505	25,588	19.21	20.06	180.4
SCB	9,663	10,309	-6.26	32,527	30,403	7.00	18.7	167.2
BAY	8,096	8,069	0.33	25,197	23,322	8.03	17.72	155.1
TTB	4,735	3,715	27.45	13,596	10,348	31.40	19.9	144.0
TISCO	1,874	1,773	5.70	5,521	5,417	2.00	23.0	205.8
KKP	1,280	2,083	-38.55	4,774	6,172	-23.00	14.81	145.3
LHFG	543	489	11.04	1,744	1,234	41.32	15.791	218.31
CIMBT	367	696	-47.27	1,736	2,811	-38.24	21.2	114.6
รวม	59,472	53,815	10.51	181,390	159,610	14.00		

Political News

- Pheu Thai party is set to hold its general meeting to elect a new leader by the end of the month and the new line-up looks like the younger generation is set to take the lead.
 - ❖ The projected lineup for the Pheu Thai Party's new leadership structure is as follows:
 - Paetongtarn Shinawatra as the party leader.
 - Sorawong Thienthong as the secretary-general.
 - Chusak Sirinil, Julapun Amornvivat and Jiraporn Sindhuprai as deputy party leaders.

➤ Danuporn Punnakanta as the spokesperson.

❖ Pheu Thai is scheduled for an extraordinary meeting on October 27.



- Today government whips will meet to discuss a joint stand on a motion proposed by the move Forward Party regarding a public referendum on charter amendments to be deliberated by the House of Representatives on Oct 25-26.
 - ❖ The main opposition Move Forward Party (MFP) will renew its attempt to seek a referendum to rewrite the charter via a fresh motion to be raised in parliament on Wednesday. The motion, to be sponsored by the MFP, including spokesman Parit Wacharasindhu, is the first item on the parliamentary debate agenda on Wednesday.



- Wiroj Lakkhanaadisorn, an MP for the Move Forward Party and chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, has advised the government to consider the following options in response to the decision to purchase a frigate instead of a submarine from China.
 - ❖ Seek a refund: The government should request a refund of the 7 billion Baht that Thailand has already paid and closely examine the contract details regarding fines and compensations for the losses incurred.

- ❖ Negotiate an exchange: Instead of seeking a refund, the government could negotiate an exchange of the 7 billion Baht for other goods, such as fertilizer.
- ❖ Exchange for naval equipment: The government could negotiate an exchange of the 7 billion Baht for other essential naval equipment, such as Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) or Frigate Warships. However, this would require careful negotiation to ensure no additional costs are incurred.
- ❖ Wiroj asserted that China Shipping & Offshore International Co. (CSOC) has breached its contract with the Royal Thai Navy, causing significant setbacks for Thailand over the past eight years; therefore, it should take responsibility.



- On October 23, the Department of Corrections issued a clarification regarding the medical treatment of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
 - ❖ According to the department, Thaksin underwent orthopedic surgery on the morning of October 22. Following the surgery, he was sent to the Neurosurgical Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and remains there currently.
 - ❖ The Department of Corrections further confirmed that Thaksin is not receiving any privileges, as other inmates have been granted external medical treatment in the past, either for outpatient visits or overnight stays, depending on their medical needs.
 - ❖ Accumulated statistics indicate that from October 1, 2022, to the present, 149 inmates have received external medical treatment for more than 30 days. Of these cases, 115 involved stays of over 30 days, 30 involved stays of over 60 days, and 4 involved stays of over 120 days.
 - ❖ On October 21, Sahakarn Petchanarin, Director-General of the Department of Corrections, signed a letter approving the doctor's recommendation that Thaksin should remain at the Police Hospital.



- Tomorrow, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin will lead his Cabinet to attend a special screening of the Thai film "Undertaker" at Siam Paragon shopping center at 19:45 hrs. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, vice chairperson of the national soft power strategy committee, will also be in attendance.
 - ❖ The movie, Undertaker or สัปเหร่อ in Thai, from the "Tai Baan: The Series" has become a phenomenon in Thai cinema after grossing over 500 million Baht nationwide. The Ministry of Culture is actively promoting the film internationally.



General News

- A man convicted and jailed of multiple serious crimes managed to escape from his Nakhon Si Thammarat hospital bed early Sunday, police and the Corrections Department said.
 - ❖ The escape of Chavalit Thongduang, 37, who is serving a jail term of 20 years and three months, prompted the Corrections Department to offer a reward of 100,000 baht for anyone who provided information leading to his arrest. He is scheduled to complete his term on May 6, 2043.
 - ❖ Police, announced Monday they would seek arrest warrants for at least three individuals who allegedly assisted Chavalit in the escape. The department released images from the security cameras of the hospital, showing Chavalit walking behind

his aide out of the hospital. Chavalit was seen wearing black long-sleeved t-shirt and black trousers while his aide was hiding his face behind a medical mask.

- ❖ Sources said the Nakhon Si Thammarat police would seek arrest warrants against at least three suspects, including Chalermpol Ritthirong and Wilawan Muenrak.
- ❖ Pol Maj Gen Somchai Suetortrakul, Nakhon Si Thammarat police chief, said he and his deputy have interrogated a woman hired to take care of Chavalit inside the hospital and obtained some useful information.



- A total of 3,329 Thai workers and students have now been flown back to Thailand from Israel, including 367 who arrived yesterday (Sunday) on two flights, according to the Thai Foreign Ministry.
 - ❖ Another 515 Thai evacuees are due back today on two more flights, with the first, from Dubai, expected to touch down at Suvarnabhumi international airport at about 4pm with 280 passengers on board. The second flight, from Tel Aviv, is expected to land at about 11pm carrying 235 passengers.
 - ❖ The second set of the remains of Thais killed in the fighting in Israel are scheduled to arrive in Bangkok this Wednesday. The first eight sets of remains were flown back from Israel last week. Altogether 31 Thais were killed, 18 injured and 19 abducted by Hamas. More than 8,000 have registered to be repatriated.
- Bangkok and its surrounding provinces are set to experience an elevated level of ultra-fine dust, known as PM2.5, in some areas between October 24-25, according to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.
 - ❖ This elevated pollution is attributed to increasing air pressure spreading across Thailand's northeastern and central regions, leading to stagnant air conditions that hinder the dispersion of dust particles. However, there is a possibility of rainfall in the affected areas on October 25-26, which could potentially alleviate the dust pollution.

#	CITY	สนพรัฐ AQI
1	บางกรวย, จังหวัดนนทบุรี	158
2	บางขุนเทียน, กรุงเทพฯ	155
3	Thawi Watthana, กรุงเทพฯ	155
4	Khlong Toei, กรุงเทพฯ	153
5	Sathon, กรุงเทพฯ	145
6	Wang Thonglang, กรุงเทพฯ	145
7	Pathum Wan, กรุงเทพฯ	137
8	พญา, จังหวัดชลบุรี	136
9	Khan Na Yao, กรุงเทพฯ	135
10	เทศบาลนครนนทบุรี, จังหวัดนนทบุรี	134



Political News Headlines in Thai Media

- Srisuwan petitions for ethics probe of Thaksin's doctors.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/politics/2669839/srisuwan-petitions-for-ethics-probe-of-thaksins-doctors>
- Defence Minister Sutin Klungsang said on Monday that he was ready to explain why the Royal Thai Navy (RTN) decided to buy a frigate instead of a submarine from China.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40032172>
- Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said Pheu Thai Family project leader Paetongtarn Shinawatra is well qualified to become the party's leader, though the decision will depend on the party meeting on Friday.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40032147>
- In the recent bilateral talks between Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the peripheries of the third Belt and Road Forum, a fraternal sentiment was echoed by the Thai Premier, evoking a sibling-like relationship between Thailand and China.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/50960/thailand-and-china-must-unite-to-fight-transnational-crime/>
- The Supreme Administrative Court on Friday dismissed the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)'s appeal against an order to disclose details of its findings in the

investigation of a luxury watch collection that Palang Pracharath Party leader Prawit Wongsuwan claimed to have borrowed from a wealthy friend.

- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/politics/40032093>
 - The Royal Thai Embassy in Israel has warned Thai workers to leave high-risk areas as soon as possible and pleaded with them to consider returning to Thailand.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032140>
 - Thammasat University students can now wear any dress for their classes or exams or to contact the university administration, as long as they don't distract others with how dress, and as long as their identity can be verified.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032135>
 - Hundreds of Thai Muslims who support the Palestinians gathered outside the Embassy of Israel in Bangkok on Saturday to call for peace and to protest against the ongoing violence in the Middle East.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032111>
-

Economic News Headlines in Thai Media

- International NGOs and Advocacy Groups Raise Alarm Over Proposals to Deregulate Thai Fisheries.
 - Link- <https://www.thaienquirer.com/50969/civil-society-groups-urge-thai-government-to-halt-deregulation-of-fisheries-sector/>
- Deputy Finance Minister Julapun Amornvivat has dismissed a suggestion that the Pheu Thai party's digital wallet scheme is a copy of the Japanese model, introduced in 1999, which was in the form of coupons.
 - Link- <https://www.thaipbsworld.com/thailands-digital-wallet-scheme-not-copy-of-1999-japanese-model/>
- The Eastern Economic Corridor Office (EECO) and State Railway of Thailand (SRT) have been instructed to resolve disputes with a CP-led consortium over amendments to the high-speed railway project within this year.

- Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/economy/40032171>
- Ten banks record B177bn in net profit.
 - Link- <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/general/2669469/ten-banks-record-b177bn-in-net-profit>
- Amidst recent reports which referenced speculations suggesting that Charoen Pokphand Group, also known as CP, expressed interest in acquiring a portion of a consumer goods retail business in Vietnam.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/corporate/40032133>
- A recent video clip that went viral on Instagram proves that Thailand is charming and exotic, former finance minister Korn Chatikavanij said.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032119>
- In just two months in office, Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin has taken on the role of a “salesman”, going out to attract investors and promoting Thailand's southern “Land Bridge” mega-project to advance Thailand's strategic objectives.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032143>
- Reports about the Government Savings Bank providing easy loans and Thai Airways International seeking new staff topped the list of most-shared fake news in the past week.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032139>
- The Highways Department will seek the Transport Ministry and the Cabinet’s approval in December to build a new motorway in the western part of Bangkok.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032136>
- The majority of people do not believe that extending the closing time of entertainment venues to 4am can boost tourism revenue, according to a recent survey by National Institute of Development Administration (Nida).
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032132>

- Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a recall on 42 batches of Irbesartan, a drug used to treat high blood pressure, following a foreign report that a contamination of AZBT had been found in the drug ingredients.
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/thailand/general/40032104>
- Tossaporn Sirisamphan, the chairman of the board of national oil and gas conglomerate PTT Plc, submitted his resignation during the board meeting on Thursday (October 19).
 - Link- <https://www.nationthailand.com/business/corporate/40032078>

Issues to be watched out for

- October 13, 2023 - Public Holiday ‘HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej’ Memorial Day.
- October 23, 2023 - Public Holiday – Chulalongkorn Day
- October 31, 2023 - The Ministry of Finance will announce its own GDP data.
- November 6, 2023 - October Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- November 15-17 - Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin attends APEC summit in San Francisco.
- November 29, 2023 - Monetary Policy Committee holds its meeting
- December 6, 2023 - November Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- December 31, 2023 - The last day by which Pheu Thai party has promised to bring about the 20 Baht/ride for the RED and Purple line mass transit to be operational.
- January 5, 2023 - December & Fiscal Year 2023 Consumer Confidence Inflation Data
- For information on Opportunity Day of various companies click on the link –

<https://www.set.or.th/streaming/opdayCalendar>

Key Data

SET Index	1,399.35	-23.69
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Link - https://www.set.or.th/en/company/ipo/upcoming_ipo_set.html

Global Commodities

Metal -Link <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/commodities/futures/metals/>

Energy -Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/energy/>

Baltic Dry Index (BDI)-Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/BDIY:IND>

Global Equity Market's Movements

Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/asia-pacific/>

Asian Equity Markets Movement

Link - <http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/stocks/world-indexes/>

Information on October 20, 2023

Buying, Selling or Transfer of shares by Owners/Management

Stock Code	Volume	Value	Action
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AP	30,000	11	Purchase
AP	5,000	11.1	Purchase

	Revoked by Reporter		
AP	5,000	11.1	Purchase
AQUA	658,600	0.32	Sale
BGT	10,000	0.81	Purchase
CV	1,100,000	0.79	Sale
EP	34,000	2.77	Purchase
EP	52,000	2.76	Purchase
MJD	86,100	1.28	Purchase
RS	2,090	14.82	Purchase
RS	2,090	15.31	Sale
SUPER	1,500,000	0.44	Purchase
THG	578,500	63.28	Purchase
VIBHA	100,000	2.06	Purchase

XD, XE or XM or other notifications

For list of Companies that have dividend payment and AGM meeting schedules click on <https://www.set.or.th/set/xcalendar.do>

Trading Breakdown on the Stock Exchange of Thailand

Daily as of 20 October 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	5,270.79	9.95	5,448.62	10.28	-177.83	-
Proprietary Trading	3,569.39	6.74	4,459.46	8.42	-890.07	-
Foreign Investor	26,252.91	49.55	27,468.21	51.84	-1,215.31	-
Local Individuals	17,889.94	33.77	15,606.73	29.46	2,283.21	-

Monthly Cumulative between 1 Oct-20 October 2023						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%

Local Institutions	58,692.67	8.94	53,106.93	8.09	5,585.75	-
Proprietary Trading	48,075.48	7.32	51,764.80	7.88	-3,689.32	-
Foreign Investors	344,712.63	52.50	354,766.59	54.03	-10,053.96	-
Local Individuals	205,118.71	31.24	196,961.18	30.00	8,157.53	-
Yearly Cumulative since 1 Jan -20 October 2023						
Unit: M.Baht						
Investor Type	Buy		Sell		Net	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Local Institutions	909,913.30	8.67	853,438.77	8.14	56,474.54	-
Proprietary Trading	800,936.77	7.64	802,902.40	7.65	-1,965.64	-
Foreign Investors	5,379,147.88	51.28	5,546,372.35	52.87	-167,224.46	-
Local Individuals	3,400,214.53	32.41	3,287,498.96	31.34	112,715.57	-

Total Trading 52,997.72 Million Baht

Background Information

According to the report by the Election Commission of Thailand as of May 8, 2019, the strength of each party in the Thai Parliament following the elections on March 24, 2019.

- https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/news_all.php?cid=24
- List of MPs - https://www.ect.go.th/ect_th/download/article/article_20190508184334.pdf

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